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REMARKS

Our official response to the request for an update of Strategic Planning issues for pros and cons JPRS printing and P&PD.

1. Personally, I believe P&PD having a facility at Reston would be more advantageous than is suggested. I certainly feel that if they were at Reston we could get the turn-around time cut down to the "single digits" I want...
2. Next, we do plan to look into having selected work and/or publications done contractually on a trial basis to determine the cost-effectiveness of this....

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FROM: (Name, org. symbol, Agency/Post)	Room No.—Bldg.
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5041-102

* U.S.G.P.O.: 1983-421-529/320

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21 October 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

FROM: Chief, Production Group

SUBJECT: Updated FBIS Strategic Plan: Printing Facilities

REFERENCE: Memorandum from ADDS&T, Subject: Updated FBIS Strategic Plan

1. This memorandum addresses questions in the referent memorandum regarding the costs, advantages and disadvantages of (1) taking back the JPRS printshop from P&PD; (2) contracting out for printing JPRS and Daily reports; and (3) establishing a copying, rather than printing, facility in FBIS to reproduce the camera-ready pages.

2. C/JPRS consulted with the chief and deputy chief of P&PD in preparing answers to the above questions.

3. The advantage to FBIS of any of the above would be, of course, that we would have greater control over the printing of our reports, particularly if we operated our own printing facility. The disadvantage is that building our own facility or contracting out for printing would require a large expenditure of resources, as well as management time.

4. COPYING FACILITY. Creating a copying facility in FBIS to reproduce reports is not feasible, since copying is not a practical method of printing the large number of reports that are required for JPRS and Daily Report subscribers. In the past, P&PD has used a high-speed copier to reproduce some small JPRS reports, but rarely does so now because they consider it inefficient for the large number of reports required. The large copiers required for such volume are expensive to purchase and require a great deal of maintenance to operate.

5. TAKING BACK THE PRINTSHOP. The advantage to FBIS of "taking back" the printshop is, of course, that we would have total control over the printing of our reports, both in terms of quality and timeliness. Also, we could have better control over their distribution. The disadvantages are that we would have to build a complete printshop from the ground up and hire and train the personnel to operate and maintain it. (Presumably we would get back the [] that originally went to P&PD.) Moreover, FBIS would have to assume responsibility for managing a support activity that is out of the mainstream of our basic mission.

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6. According to a P&PD estimate (prepared by an individual who worked in the old JPRS printshop), we would need approximately 5,500 square feet of building space, [] worth of equipment and [] positions to develop the necessary capacity to print and distribute JPRS reports. Annual costs for maintenance and supplies are estimated at about []

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7. CONTRACTING OUT FOR PRINTING. Prior to submitting a new initiative last year for construction of a new printing plant in Reston, P&PD conducted a study to determine how much it would cost to contract out the printing of Daily and JPRS reports. They found only one printing firm in the area that was even willing to submit a bid for that. However, that company would be willing to do the work only if it could obtain a 5-year contract because it would require construction of extra printing capacity. P&PD was quoted a figure of [] for a five-year contract for printing the reports. Although P&PD managers weren't shocked by the quote (according to DC/P&PD), they did check with another printing firm they do business with regularly to verify that the quote was reasonable -- and were told that it was. In answer to a question about the feasibility of our contracting out only part of our printing load, C/JPRS was told by C/P&PD that any smaller volume would incur an even higher per-piece cost than that quoted above. However, we would be amenable to trying this option on a pilot basis.

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8. Theoretically, over the medium term the construction of a P&PD satellite facility in Reston seemingly could improve P&PD's ability to support FBIS. However, DC/P&PD emphasizes that (1) such a facility would not be dedicated to FBIS and (2) that 10 days still probably will be the fastest that JPRS reports can be published.

9. Over the long term, the development of the Open Source Information Exchange could minimize FBIS' printing problems by making our translation data base available to consumers digitally, and thus would substantially reduce the number of hard copies that must be published for record purposes.

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